

**Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch**  
**1st Quarter Report; EPA Region IX**  
**Oct – Dec 2014**

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Attended Out of State Travel:

No out of state trips taken by staff during this period.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

Personnel:

EHS Victoria Matsumura continues on temporary assignment in the Case Development section to limit her exposure to pesticides.

Four (4) new positions were granted by the Legislature during the 2014 session. These positions were for a case developer, and enforcement inspectors added to Kauai, Oahu and Hawaii Island. The Pesticides Branch has initiated paperwork to fill these slots.

Annual Pesticides Program Training:

During November 18 - 21, the annual pesticide training was held. Also in attendance were Mary Grisier (EPA Region 9), Faaunga Laititi (American Samoa) and Karl Olsen (Guam). Faaunga, Karl and other enforcement inspectors participated in the inspections of a house that was fumigated with Vikane and an agricultural use inspection in Laie. Other activities involved medical monitoring and respirator fit testing. Workshops were conducted by branch staff or outside guest speaker on such topics as:

- Theory of sampling and the procedure of sampling of the FIFRA samples.
- Use of Pesticides in Conservation settings
- Section 7 (ESA) SLN, Section 18 process/requirements
- School IPM update
- Pesticide Use in Organic Production
- Effective Writing

Consulting Services.

Approval from the Governor was granted in April 2014 to develop an information technology (IT) system database within the Pesticide Branch for greater efficiency and to improve access to pesticides related information internally and to the general public. Three major sections involved are Enforcement, Registration/Licensing and Education/Certification.

Additional meetings were held with DataHouse Consulting, Inc. to clarify other workflow plans and required reports needed by pesticide staff. Christina Zimmerman and Steve Russo have taken the lead in meeting with DataHouse and doing the Integrated Pesticides Information System (IPIS) conversion.

A soft rollout of the project was held and DataHouse provided initial training to Pesticide Branch staff on what some reports would look like. The Chemical Analysis Lab will also provide their workflow plans for input into this system at a later date.

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Legislative:

Act 105 from last year.

A sample of how redacted RUP sales records would look like when posted on HDOA's server was sent to our deputy attorney general for comment. A series of meetings have taken place with our deputy attorney general and the State Office of Information Practices (OIP) to determine what information can be posted to be in compliance with Hawaii's UIPA 92F. We have yet to reach an agreement, hence no date has been determined when posting will occur on the HDOA website. A number of individuals have queried the whereabouts of this posting.

Registration/Licensing:

Licensing:

A total of 2,317 licenses were processed (Oct-Dec), with fees collected totaling \$764,610. For the new licenses issued, 87 were general use and 1 RUP. For the renewal licenses, 2,121 were general use and 108 RUP.

Special Local Need Registrations: 2 issued this quarter

SLN HI-090001 is a renewal for SLN for use of Lorsban Advanced (EPA Reg. No. 62719-591) on nonbearing pineapple to control mealybugs. Issued 10/1/2014.

SLN HI-140002 is a new SLN for use of Provaunt (EPA Reg. No. 100-1487) as a bait in residential, recreational, natural, and commercial landscapes for Little Fire Ant control. This is not for use on plants bearing harvestable food. Issued 12/5/2014.

Emergency Exemptions:

None issued or active in this quarter.

State Experimental Use Permits: 2 issued this quarter

EUP-14-05 issued to University of Hawaii, CTAHR, Insect Ecology and Integrated Pest Management Laboratory to test efficacy of Movento on naio thrips on Myoporium sandwicense. Issued 10/16/2014.

EUP-14-06 issued to BASF Corporation to test herbicide tolerance of Sharpen and Valor Herbicides on seed corn. Issued 10/9/14

EUP-14-07 issued to BASF Corporation to test herbicide tolerance of Sharpen and Valor Herbicides on soybean.

New Active ingredients:

No new active received during this quarter.

Cyantraniliprole – still need to conduct full GW review. Dr. Ray indicated he can conduct with assistance from Dr. Seojin Ki. Dr. Ray will send proposal listing estimated cost for reviews so we can request Purchase order.

Endangered Species Review Requests (Section 7)

None requested.

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Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL):

- Total no. of 371 tests run for 39 samples pertaining to 6 enforcement cases were finished by both GC/MS and LC/MS equipment.
- The nitrogen generator wore out and a replacement ordered and is expected to be delivered sometime early next year. A Geno-grinder was set-up to replace the manual labor required in the Quichers method.
- Joey Chen was chosen to be a panel member as part of the 2015 EPA PREP Lab Issues meeting in Savannah, GA – April 13 – 16, 2015.

Education/Certification:

Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:

- A total of 182 statewide certification examination sessions were held.
- One hundred seventy-two (172) examinees were tested in Private applicator or Commercial applicator categories.
- Out of these examinees, 38 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 27 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.
- 24 certified applicators collectively earned 143 recertification credits by taking quizzes.
- Twenty-three CET training classes were held and attended by 371 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned 790.5 recertification credits.

Worker Protection Safety Program Work plan:

WPS training provided to:

- Big Island Ag Product (3)
- Big Island County Parks & Rec (10)
- Maui Community College (15)
- Maui Department of Land And Natural Resources (7)
- Pacific Island Enforcement staff (3)

Other trainings/technical assistance provided by Pesticide Education staff included topics on:

- Pesticide Label Interpretation
  - BEI Hawaii (8);
  - Big Island - Pomakai Elem School (6)
- Proper Pesticide Use and Safety
  - CTAHR (27)
  - Kilauea Pest Control (10)
- Pesticide Rules and Regulations – US Dept. Of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (10)
- Pesticide Rotation – Basil Growers (27)
- Soil Fumigation (VAPAM)
  - Sunshine Farm (1)
  - Green Point Nurseries (2)
  - B. Namihara (1)
  - N. Cabalce (1)
- WPS compliance review (10)
  - Big Island Ag Product (1)
  - Monsanto Maui (8)

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- Tran Ho Farm (1)
- IPM/Pesticide Safety
  - Maui DLNR (7)
  - Hawaii Pest Control Association (143)
- Pollinator Protection
  - UH Maui Sustainable Living Institute (13)
  - Leeward Community College Class No. 1097 (10)

Enforcement:

Oahu:

- There were nine complaints filed during this quarter. Three of these were closed due to the inability of identifying an applicator, no odor was detected, and a determination could not be made as to whether a tent fumigation job could be categorized as a connected structure.
- Of note was complaint OA-14-34 that involved the evacuation of Kapolei Elementary School. Malathion was applied by a neighbor near the school. Samples were collected and analysis did not indicate particle drift onto school property. The original pesticide container was disposed of and the product was no longer available at the retail store the applicator claimed to have purchased it from.

Maui/Molokai:

- Individual claims to be chemical sensitive and visited emergency medical facility for pesticide exposure. Swab samples were collected from complainant's residence and tested for Malathion and Acephate. Results were negative. A leaf sample from the site of application and a spray tank swab sample tested positive for Malathion.
- There were three complaints initiated by individuals alleging that they detected an odor while standing outside the Monsanto Company facilities. Complainants alleged odors caused subsequent illnesses, on two separate dates in the late afternoon hours. Investigation of these two complaints showed that there were no pesticide spray applications conducted on the dates they detected the odor. However, on one of these dates, a soil covered application of Force 3G Insecticide was conducted in the morning and early afternoon. This application site was close to a half mile from where the odor was allegedly detected.
- The last odor complaint involved the Monsanto Co. Piilani Farm. Complainant later discovered that the source was from a green waste composting facility.

Kauai:

- There were 4 agricultural and 3 urban structural complaints. Two individuals from the Kekaha community called to file odor complaints. The first complainant believed it was not a residential pesticide and linked the movement of the pesticide from agricultural fields due to an inversion. The second complainant identified the odor as Malathion and provided information that the fire department responded to the complaint. A Fire Captain who was contacted said he could not provide the inspector (Ann Kam) with information because it dealt with the public. The Fire Captain said if it were the seed companies, he could provide information. A Battalion Chief was contacted by Ann Kam about the odor incident and provided her with the address that fire crews responded to. The Malathion odor was still present at the site of application 2 days after the application.

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- Another agricultural complaint was filed from a nurse practitioner in the Kekaha area. Based on the nurse practitioner's comments, a follow up inspection was conducted at Dow Agro Sciences. The employer did not release the employee's name, for privacy reasons, and stated that an employee was taken to the emergency room on the specified date for dehydration.
- The nurse practitioner was also informed that complainants should contact the enforcement inspector to file a formal complaint. The nurse practitioner said she sees many patients that have signs of pesticide poisoning but "it is not in their culture to complain." She claims to have provided the enforcement contact phone number to at least 50 people. The DOH - State Toxicologist, Barbara Brooks' contact number was also provided to the nurse practitioner as a medical resource.
- A woman filed a complaint stating that she and her children smelled a pesticide odor and had gotten exposed to pesticides being applied by a landscape company at a local mall. After interviewing the two landscape workers, it was noted that the backpack sprayer application was made beginning 200 feet from the woman and her children and the applicator had stopped applying Ronstar G when he observed them approaching him approximately 40 feet away.
- A husband and wife filed a complaint that the County of Kauai – Public Works Department had applied a glyphosate product to guard rails and along the road way on Kawaihau Road that caused the wife to suffer tremendously. Wife is a chemically sensitive resident and has filed various complaints throughout the years. After inspection, it was calculated that the County had applied over the annual allowable rate of 10.6quarts/acre/year.

**Hawaii Island:**

- A Hilo resident filed a complaint against his neighbor. Complainant observed his 70 year old neighbor applying an herbicide with a backpack sprayer along a running stream within her backyard. While applying the herbicide, the spray solution may have accidentally entered the stream, for a few seconds. The application was observed and photographed by the complainant. The photographs do not clearly show spray mist entering the stream. The complainant was concerned that the wrong glyphosate-containing product was used and this may cause damage to wildlife within the stream. Applicator did apply Aquamaster.
- A Kailua-Kona resident call HDOA to file a complaint. The complainant observed the County of Hawaii, Highways Maintenance Division spraying in Captain Cook HI, in public areas in windy conditions with the public present. The application was made with a 100 gallon truck mounted sprayer. The complainant and 6 other concerned residents also completed attestations expressing their concerns over the application of herbicides in Kainaliu Town, when the public is present. The complainant had with him a section of Roundup Label that states, "*Only protected handlers may be in the area being treated*". On October 24, 2014, the County of Hawaii overseer, made the following changes to the County of Hawaii spray program in West Hawaii as follows:

**"Preventative Measures for herbicide spraying":**

1. Walk the town areas to spray w/hand pump (knap sack) ex: Holualoa & Kainaliu & Honalo – instead of drive by's
2. Cut back on psi from 40 to 25 psi
3. Be sure herbicide sprayers use long sleeve or coveralls. No short sleeves

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4. Food establishment areas – keep a minimum distance & spray w/hand pump.
  5. Pay attention to windy days – gusts over 10 mph, Do not spray!
  6. Put out warning signs of herbicide spraying
  7. Pay close attention to “Do not Spray” Signs
- A Keaau resident called HDOA to report that he found what he believes to be rat bait in his chicken’s feces. Ferguson is a licensed game bird breeder. Ferguson suspects that a neighbor is trying to kill his chickens. A sample was obtained and tested for Diphacinone. Lab results were negative.
  - A call came in from the Hilo Fire Department to report that an unknown odor has caused a partial evacuation of Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo. By the time the inspector met with Hazardous Materials Team, the source of the unknown odor had dissipated. Three students were seen in the health room by Fire Department personnel and were released without any problems. The school was then re-opened. According to the school’s principal, no pesticides had been applied at the school on this day.

Special Projects:

IPM In Schools:

- No meetings with DOE facilities this period.

Development of IPM informational booklet for local public schools Grades 1 – 5:

- The draft text of the IPM Project was completed and work to do the cartooning portion met with limited results. Work stopped on the booklet due to the belief that funding has lapsed. Work will continue in the new fiscal year and the goal is to complete the IPM booklet by the end of the fiscal year. Possible funding will be from the Revolving Fund to cover printing costs and also place a copy on our website

Development of Crop Grouping for mobile app:

- Work was done on the minor crop cross-reference table, incorporated changes to the crop grouping definitions, added new minor crops, expanded the list of common names and searched for pictures of minor crops. Development of an app not planned for the near future. Will probably develop into a reference for field staff.

Development of WPS Handler and Worker narrated slideshow:

- Work (Steve Russo and Daisuke Inoyama) started on the project with taking slides of the WPS teaching flip chart followed by voice over rendering in English for each slide. Incorporating new pictures to replace those on the WPS flip chart was intended but not complete and was matching the voice over segments with new photos. Again believing that the funding had lapsed, no further activity took place. We do plan on completing this slideshow by the end of the fiscal year and utilizing Revolving Funds to cover costs for CD’s. Another step will be to do voice over in different languages, i.e. Laotian, Cantonese, Tagalog, Ilocano, and Thai. This will require interpreters to do the voice over.